# Crypto libraries introduction

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## **Open source cryptographic libraries**



- Linux environment up to you:
  - Fedora / VirtualBox VM (see course materials)
  - Your own distro need to install development env.:
    - libgcrypt: Fedora: libgcrypt-devel; Debian/Ubuntu: libgcrypt20-dev
    - OpenSSL:Fedora: **openssl-devel**; Debian/Ubuntu: **libssl-dev**
    - libsodium:Fedora: libsodium-devel; Debian/Ubuntu: libsodium-dev
  - aisa.fi.muni.cz (OpenSSL only)
- All examples in C language
- Home assignments (10 points each)
- Videocall for discussion (check mail)

# Lab environment VirtualBox image

- Unpack zip archive from IS
- Open VirtualBox (click **blue** icon config file)
- Login and password is pv181 (same for sudo and root password)
- Examples on gitlab (and in /home/pv181 in VM) git clone https://gitlab.fi.muni.cz/xbroz/pv181.git make clean; make; ./example



#### **Cryptographic libraries Goals for this lab**

- Crypto libraries and API / abstraction
- More practical and implementation view
- Why legacy code, compatibility and standards
- Coding practices
- Defensive approach
   It will fail, be prepared for it :-)



# Why implementation matters

- It works, but ...
- How many possible bugs do you see?

```
/* Read a key from Linux RNG */
#include <string.h>
#include <unistd.h>
#include <fcntl.h>
int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
   int fd;
   char key[32];
   fd = open("/dev/random", O_RDONLY);
   read(fd, key, 32);
   close(fd);
   /* Do something with the key[] */
  memset (key, 0, 32);
   return 0;
}
```



# Why implementation matters

- How many possible bugs do you see?
  - No check for return code, open(), read()
  - Posible reading from invalid fd (no random at all)
  - Partial read() is not detected
  - Failed read() is not detected (mandatory access control can block reading)
  - Magic numbers (one constant on several places)
  - Compiler can optimize memset() out (secret key remains in memory)
  - No error exit code, cannot check for failure



# Why implementation matters

- Fixes? Let's see **example 0** in git.
- It is better to use a crypto library.
- Usually, maintainers implement it correctly :-)

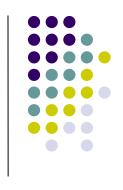
```
int getRandomNumber()
{
return 4; // chosen by fair dice roll.
// guaranteed to be random.
}
```

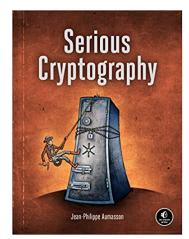
https://xkcd.com/221/

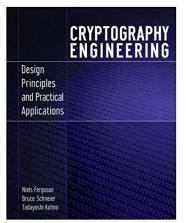
## Some (not too old) books

More practically oriented books:

- Jean-Phillipe Aumasson
   Serious Cryptography: A Practical Introduction to Modern Encryption (2017)
- Ferguson, Schneier, Kohno
   Cryptography Engineering:
   Design Principles and Practical
   Applications (2010)







#### **Cryptographic libraries** Introduction

- Open-source / Proprietary
- Static + embedded / dynamically linked
- Low or high level abstractions
- Multiplatform
- Stable API and ABI
- Security or platform specific features
  - Safe memory use, side-channel resistance, ...
  - HW acceleration support, "secure" HW support



# **Example libs (C and Linux) abstraction from low to high**

- Nettle
- libgcrypt
- OpenSSL
  - LibreSSL (clone), BoringSSL (Google)
- NSS
  - Network Security Services (Mozilla)
- NaCl ("salt")
  - more common as libsodium

Today: examples in libgcrypt, OpenSSL and libsodium



# **Crypto libraries**

- Random Number Generator (RNG) access
- Hash, keyed-hash (HMAC, msg authentication)
- Symmetric ciphers and modes
- Asymmetric ciphers
- Certificate support, ASN.1, ...
- Key exchange, key derivation
- Helpers
  - secure memory
  - safe comparison
  - network / sockets

